

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Work Attitudes

By Walter E. Myer

FEW students enjoy all the subjects they study. As time goes by even the good students frequently find themselves disliking one or more of their courses. They may think that a subject is too difficult, or that it is dull and uninteresting, or that it will not help them to get along during future years.

At any rate they don't like it, and they may resent being obliged to go on with it. It is often argued that one wastes time when he forces himself to do something which seems dull or worthless. It is said that one should spend his time with subjects which are interesting and clearly useful.

There is something to this point of view, if the argument isn't carried too far. It is always an unfortunate thing for one to spend a great deal of his time at unpleasant tasks. A person who does that is confused or unhappy too much of the time. He cannot lead a really enjoyable life. This is true whether he is in school or in an outside job.

But don't decide too quickly against a course you don't like. Try it out first. See what there is to it. Put every bit of intelligence, every ounce of energy, into the effort to master it. When you are sure you understand it, when you are doing well with it, you may find that you like and respect it. If not, you can make plans to drop it as soon as possible. But don't quit while it has you down.

It would be a fine thing if you could do work, in school or out, which is all easy and entertaining. But that isn't the way of the world. In the best and most honored positions there are periods of relentless toil.

Lawyers, doctors, engineers, authors, bankers, and others who hold high places in the professions and industry, have hard work to do. They cannot skip over the hard places, or leave undone the parts of their work which they do not enjoy. They have learned that hours

of drudgery alternate with moments of inspiration. They succeed if they work for success, if they are prepared to plow through the rough places they meet along the way.

A person who quits every time he encounters an obstacle will find himself



Walter E. Myer

fitting from job to job without earning the rewards which come with consistent study and work. He will get into the habit of giving up every time he is put to the test, and that habit, if long continued, may block achievement in school and in the vocational life as well.

When you go to high school you have a chance to sample several different fields, several general lines of work. You find out what you like best and what you can do best. You can do this sampling only if you take the courses or subjects as they come, learning what each has to offer, and learning also what kinds of study and work will benefit you most.



SEARCHING for evidence of graft and corruption in the federal government

Conduct in Politics

Congress Investigates Charges that High-ranking Officials Have Been Involved in Questionable Transactions

DURING recent weeks the nation has been stirred by stories of unethical dealings involving federal officials. According to testimony given before a Senate investigating committee, certain individuals have been able to get special favors from the government by exerting pressure through the White House itself.

A central figure in these accusations is Major General Harry Vaughan, military aide to President Truman. Because of his close friendship with the President, General Vaughan's word carries great weight in the various government bureaus. It is charged that his influence has been badly misused.

Witnesses say, for instance, that in 1947 he helped a man obtain government permission to employ scarce construction materials for repairing a race track. It is also charged that, through Vaughan's influence, representatives of a perfume company traveled to Europe on an Army plane shortly after World War II—at a time when few American businessmen were able to visit the war-torn continent. In addition, Vaughan is accused of seeking to help a molasses firm avoid penalties for violation of rationing regulations.

Adding to the seriousness of these charges is the fact that General Vaughan received favors from some of the same people he is said to have

helped. He admits that the race track operator gave him money for the Democratic Party's congressional campaign of 1946. Vaughan also admits that he and some other influential persons in Washington were given "deep freezers" by the head of the perfume company.

General Vaughan insists that these gifts or contributions had no connection with his efforts to help the people who gave them. "At no time," he declares, "have I taken action as a member of the White House staff in exchange for a gift or other favor." The General also contends that, although he sometimes contacted government officials on behalf of his friends, he never attempted to exert pressure on any of these officials.

Vaughan's critics, however, say that the record speaks for itself. They continue their attack as follows:

"Any remark or suggestion coming from the White House is likely to be regarded in government offices as a command. If Vaughan, aide and close friend of the President, expresses interest in any deal being handled by a government office, that case is likely to get special attention and treatment. In such an event, Vaughan is actually exerting pressure. If he cannot understand this situation, he should not be in the White House office."

The General's opponents also object

Britain Needs More Dollars

She Has to Have Our Products, But Cannot Sell Enough in U. S. to Buy Them

THE British financial crisis, which has been the subject of important and highly publicized talks this month in Washington, may be briefly summarized as follows:

Britain has to have American food and other products to live. She is not, however, selling enough to America to pay for what she buys here. Unless England can halt the present flow of dollars from her treasury, she may "go broke."

Since the war, Britain has not been able to obtain as much of what she needs from Europe and Asia, so she has had to depend increasingly on the United States for her imports. To get dollars with which to buy food and materials in our country, the British launched an extensive manufacturing and export program. Early this year industrial output in England had been increased by more than 25 per cent over the prewar output. At the same time, intensive efforts boosted British foreign sales more than 50 per cent higher than in 1938.

In addition, Britain received extensive financial aid from this side of the Atlantic. The United States has advanced more than 6 billion dollars and Canada has loaned her more than 1 billion.

But even with this vast aid from abroad and increased production at home, Britain has had to dig deep into her reserves to keep going. Since 1945 British purchases from the United States and Canada have totaled more than 7½ billion dollars above British sales to the same two countries. Dollars have been flowing out of the British treasury much faster than they have been coming in.

This is the situation which U. S. (Concluded on page 2)



SHOTT IN DALLAS MORNING NEWS

ANOTHER channel swimmer



SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS (left), Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin have discussed Britain's dollar crisis with U. S. authorities

British Needs

(Concluded from page 1)

British, and Canadian leaders explored from all angles in their Washington talks. An attempt was made to work out a plan whereby Britain can sell enough goods here to give her sufficient dollars to buy the American products which she needs.

How can the problem be solved? One possible way might seem to be for the British to cut down on their purchases here, since they are running short of dollars. However, this is not as apt a solution as might be thought, for the British long ago stopped buying everything but absolute necessities.

If British food purchases from the United States are cut, British workers will not have enough to eat and will not be able to do as much work as at present. If that country's purchases of machinery and raw materials from us are reduced, then British factories will have to lessen their output, and they will not be able to sell as much to us as they are now doing.

Can Britain increase her sales in America? If so, how? It won't be easy to answer this second question. As a matter of fact, the sale of British products in the United States has decreased this year.

One reason why American purchases of that country's products have been dropping off recently is the fact that British goods being sent here usually cost more than similar goods made in the United States. Store owners report that buyers are now "shopping around" more than they did immediately after the war and are looking for bargains.

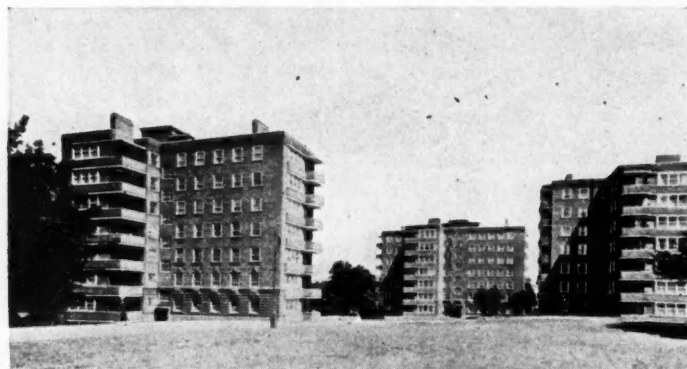
Can Prices Be Cut?

Whether the prices of British products can be cut to the point where they can compete with American-made goods is a question that has aroused a good deal of controversy. Some observers contend that British production costs can be cut substantially by the use of American factory techniques and methods. It is also contended by some that socialism in Britain is destroying the incentive of the workers and thus contributing to waste and inefficiency which tend to boost the prices of British products.

While many British admit that some of their factories are outmoded, they say that changes are being made as

fast as possible in an effort to modernize them and thus lower production costs. To those who blame British socialism for high prices, the reply is made that present production figures are far above their prewar levels.

Also entering into the controversy about the prices of British goods is the part played by the American tariff. It is contended by some that U. S. tariffs are playing a major role in



NUMEROUS APARTMENTS have been built in England, but many Londoners still urgently need new homes

cutting down the sale of British goods in this country. It is pointed out, for example, that a suit of woolen clothes worth \$50 in Britain is charged a tariff of about \$12 to enter the U.S.A. And a British automobile that sells at wholesale for \$1,500 is taxed 10 per cent when it enters this country, causing its price to be boosted \$150.

Defenders of the present tariffs say that they are necessary to protect American manufacturers from foreign competition. It is pointed out that our tariffs on British and other foreign goods have been lowered considerably in recent years, and many Americans feel that they should not be further reduced.

The British also claim that our "customs" rules and regulations are so complicated that they discourage foreigners from trying to sell goods in this country. The Canadians make the same complaint. Our government is expected to investigate these criticisms.

Another plan which some experts believe might stimulate British sales in the United States is for England to "devalue" or "cheapen" her currency. At the present time, the British pound is officially valued at \$4.03. If it were reduced in value to \$3.50, American merchants could buy more pounds with

a given number of dollars. They could then take their increased number of pounds and buy more British goods than they can at present. They could also sell these goods more cheaply to their customers than they can now.

Supporters of "cheapening" the pound say that it would help to boost British sales in the United States. On the other hand, a cheaper British pound could buy fewer dollars than it can now. Each pound could buy only \$3.50 worth of American goods instead of \$4.03 worth. So everything the British bought over here would cost them more than at present.

It is a matter of dispute whether, by cheapening their currency, the British would increase their sales in the United States and thus be better off, or whether they would be worse off because the cheaper pound could not buy as much in this country as the present pound can. The question is being thoroughly studied and debated.

In their attempt to find a solution of this complex problem, the American, British, and Canadian leaders have been driven on by the knowledge that failure to "come up with the right answer" might have disastrous effects. We want Britain to continue to buy our food, cotton, and other farm products. We know that a sound, healthy England is necessary in plans for the military defense of Europe under the Atlantic Pact.

man these days is likely to be bread and jam, a thin pat of butter, and tea. About twice a week the Englishman can manage a strip of bacon and, in summer time, an egg and a glass of milk. In winter, milk is scarce and an egg three or four times a month is about the best to be expected.

Lunch for the businessman may include a small veal chop with potatoes and boiled Brussels sprouts, if he gets to a restaurant early. More likely fish will be served instead of meat. The clerk or laborer generally has a cheese or sardine sandwich.

Fish for Supper

Supper at home likely will be built around fish as the main course. It is the one food the British can get easily from their rivers and the sea around them. If a family is prosperous, there may be a chicken, or stewed kidney—these are unrationed. Apples may be the dessert. Other fruits are hard to find and expensive.

What the Englishman misses most is meat—his Sunday "joint," or roast. The meat ration is only about a pound a week per person. For a family of four that means four pounds, hardly enough for a really appetizing roast.

It would be incorrect to say that the British are starving. It would be correct, however, to rank their monotonous diet as poorer than that of most other nations of western Europe—poorer than in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Holland, or France.

The British diet is about on a par with that of western Germany. Many British soldiers in Germany say the German diet is better than the British, especially in the country.

Along with his boring diet, the Englishman finds little in luxuries to make life enjoyable. British movie production is limited; American movies cost precious dollars and so new ones are rare. The cheapest suit would cost the average worker all his wages for seven weeks, so he usually wears an old one. A new car would take all his salary for over a year and, with gasoline rationed, would be of little use.

The Englishman's life is pretty much a continuation of the hardships of wartime. Just as he stood against the Nazis, the Englishman, in general, is standing up to the hardships of peacetime. But he does want something better. That is why he hopes a way will be found for him to sell more of his goods for dollars.

The exact steps which will be taken to help England are not known as we go to press, but we shall discuss them in an early issue of this paper.



SALE OF BRITISH-MADE CARS has declined in the U. S. as manufacturers here have increased their production



A YOUNG AUSTRIAN writes us about his country in a letter reprinted below. He and the Viennese youth in this picture wonder what their nation's future will be.

GRANOTA FROM BLACK STAR

Exchanging Letters

I hope the federal government will soon put into effect President Truman's plan to aid poorly developed countries. We possess the greatest amount of technical know-how in the world and we would be doing a service to mankind to make this knowledge available to our backward neighbors.

JACK HANDE,
Silverton, Oregon

★ ★ ★

To my way of thinking, other nations would do well if they followed the example of the countries of North and South America and formed an alliance similar to the Organization of American States. It is true that several Latin American countries experienced uprisings recently, but these affected the governments of the states in which they occurred. No serious clashes have taken place between different nations. JACKIE SLICHTER,
West Lawn, Pennsylvania

★ ★ ★

Since Australia appears to need a larger population than it now has, I wonder why it does not encourage the large-scale immigration of displaced persons of the Jewish faith. The latter need homes for themselves and their families and they would probably welcome the opportunity to settle in Australia. At the same time, many Jews have highly developed skills and so they would be of benefit to the Australian nation.

TONI CROCCO,
Racine, Wisconsin

★ ★ ★

Though it is now more than four years since the war ended, Austria is still short of many things. We need clothing and food and other products. At the same time, the factories in the Russian occupation zone of

Austria cannot make very much for our own use because they must turn over a large part of their production to the Soviet Union. Russia says that since we cannot pay her in money for the damage we caused her in the war, she is entitled to take many of the goods we manufacture.

ROBERT LORENCONK,
Karnten, Austria

★ ★ ★

Like many other people, I hope there will not be another war. A third world conflict would probably destroy civilization. Nevertheless, there are many controversial issues that might cause fighting to break out. There is the situation in China, the dispute over my own country, and the controversy between the Arabs and Jews. Any one of these problems could bring worldwide hostilities.

HANS-ZINGEN MUSHEIDES,
Buttenheim, Germany

★ ★ ★

I doubt very much whether television will ever cause more than a few people to remain away from sporting events. There is nothing like watching a game in person and feeling that you are a member of the crowd. I admit that television will improve as the years go by. It will offer better and better attractions for sports fans, but I am sure that most people will continue to patronize the contests themselves.

BOB THOMSON,
Seattle, Washington

★ ★ ★

(Our readers are reminded that they may submit for publication letters they receive from foreign students as well as correspondence they write themselves. All contributions should be addressed to Letter Column, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)

Television in Color?

Federal Communications Commission Wants to See Whether or Not New Type of Video Is Ready for Commercial Use

NOBODY knows how soon American audiences will be able to see television programs in color. Systems for broadcasting and receiving in natural shades are being worked out, but many difficulties stand in the way of their general use.

The development of color video has for a long time been creating problems in the television industry. Just after World War II the growth of television was held back by a controversy over whether programs should be in color or black-and-white. Different kinds of equipment are needed for sending and receiving each type of broadcast. It was realized that the existence of two systems would cause great confusion in the industry.

In the spring of 1947 the U. S. Federal Communications Commission decided that color video, while holding great promise for the future, was not yet practical to use commercially. It ruled, therefore, that licenses for color broadcasting would not be granted for some time. With this guarantee that black-and-white video stations and receivers would not immediately be outmoded, the television industry entered a period of rapid growth.

Since 1947, however, engineers have done much work on color television, and several companies claim to have developed good systems. They want to put these into commercial operation, and so the whole controversy is with us again.

Hearings Begin

The Federal Communications Commission is to begin holding hearings on the subject in Washington next week. Several big companies are expected to demonstrate their newest types of color television devices.

After examining the new equipment, and after getting the opinions of numerous radio and television experts, the FCC will decide on whether to license any system of color video. For approval by the Commission, a color television set-up will apparently need to satisfy three main requirements:

First, of course, it must produce good pictures. This requirement can undoubtedly be met. People who have seen color demonstrations report that

pictures of excellent quality are obtained.

Second, color television receivers should be simple to operate. Most tests and demonstrations conducted up to the present have been under the supervision of skilled engineers. It remains to be seen whether or not a receiving set that will perform satisfactorily for the average person has yet been perfected.

"Converters" Needed

Third, the FCC will not approve the commercial use of any color television system that would make today's black-and-white receivers obsolete. It wants to protect the approximately 2 million families and business establishments that have already spent large sums of money on television. FCC members are looking for a color video system that can be received on present-day sets equipped with relatively inexpensive "converters."

Broadcasting companies claim that devices of this nature have been devised. The Radio Corporation of America (RCA) says it has developed color television that can be received in black-and-white on the ordinary sets of today. A converter or "adapter" would enable these sets to receive the broadcasts in color. As we go to press, no announcement has been made concerning the price of adapters for use with the RCA system.

The Columbia network, meanwhile, is promoting a system of color video that cannot be seen at all on present black-and-white instruments. A converter, probably costing about \$75, would enable old sets to receive the broadcasts.

All or most sets manufactured after commercial broadcasting in color begins will undoubtedly be factory-equipped to receive the new type of presentations.

The demonstrations to be made during the coming FCC hearings will show a great deal as to how far color television has advanced and how soon it will enter the American home. But, at present, experts are predicting that the general public will not obtain the new type of video for about two years or more.



W.O.C., WASHINGTON, D. C.

TELEVISION'S POPULARITY is growing, both for entertainment and for classroom study. Will colored pictures soon replace the black-and-white?

The Story of the Week

UN Assembly

The UN General Assembly begins tomorrow its fourth regular session. The meeting will be held at Flushing Meadow, Long Island, the same place where the second half of the third Assembly session was held last spring.

As always, the Assembly is expected to take up a number of controversial issues. If the program does not provide for discussion of a particular question, some delegation is sure to bring it before the entire group.

Among the issues that are due to be considered are the future of the former Italian colonies, the international control of atomic energy, and the question of a permanent peace settlement in Palestine. All these subjects were discussed last spring but no agreements were reached.

Some observers believe that the representatives of the Yugoslav government may submit to the Assembly their country's dispute with Russia. If they do, there will doubtless be a heated debate between the followers of Marshal Tito on one side and the supporters of Russia and international communism on the other.

Young Radio Star

Aneita Rich, high school student in Ponca City, Oklahoma, is making a good start toward a career in music. Each week this talented young singer presents a 15-minute program on the Ponca City radio station, WBBZ. Her



ANEITA RICH, a high school student, has begun her career as a singer. She broadcasts a 15-minute program each week over station WBBZ in her home town, Ponca City, Oklahoma.

mother, a music teacher, plays the piano accompaniment.

Aneita's series of weekly programs began about a year ago. At first, the station's managers were not sure whether she had a very big audience. But one day, when her program was broadcast at a different hour than usual, WBBZ received many inquiries as to when she would be on the air. This incident seemed to prove that she was attracting many listeners.

In addition to carrying on her musical and school activities, Aneita has for some time held a job with a daily newspaper in her home town. Winner of medals in several voice contests, she hopes eventually to enter light opera.

Venezuelan Iron

Venezuela, already second only to the United States in world production of oil, now is developing a new source



WALT DISNEY scores again with his feature-length picture "The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad"

of great wealth—iron ore. Deposits of the metal, in remote mountains of the South American country, are among the largest in the world. Hundreds of millions, perhaps more than a billion, tons of the ore are said to lie beneath the mountains. Ore chunks can be picked up even from the surface.

Mining of the Venezuelan ore is just beginning. Shipment to the United States will start next year. American steel companies are directing the mining. Under an agreement with the Venezuelan government, these companies pay for the ore in dollars, which the country needs. The United States gets the ore for production of steel—the backbone of our industries.

Thick jungles, rivers and mountains have discouraged Venezuelans from living in the area where iron is found. But American engineers and Venezuelan labor, after eight years, have conquered these obstacles. Today, modern roads and rail lines carry the ore to river barges, for shipment to the ocean. A new port, Puerto Hierro on the northern coast, will receive the ore for transshipment to steel mills in the United States.

Oil production has paid for Venezuelan imports for many years. The sales of iron ore will make it possible for the country to increase these imports. Machinery, manufactured food products, textiles and chemicals are among the goods bought from other countries.

Most of Venezuela's population of over four million live along the coasts, where they farm, work in oil fields, fish or mine gold. The country is about the size of Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas combined.

"Animated" Treat

Walt Disney has once again produced a picture that will appeal to people of all ages. It is called "The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad" and features the voices of Bing Crosby and Basil Rathbone.

Crosby tells the story of Ichabod, the schoolmaster who was frightened by a "headless horseman" and, subsequently, was never seen again. The narrative, of course, is taken from Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." The original is followed closely.

Rathbone relates the adventures of

Mr. Toad, who is a character from Kenneth Grahame's "The Wind in the Willows." Mr. Toad, it appears, is a generous animal, but he is also a reckless one. He is forever getting into trouble and is a continual trial to his friends.

The music in the picture is original, and Crosby sings several catchy tunes while telling of the hapless schoolmaster of Irving's famous tale.

Robeson Incidents

Paul Robeson, Negro singer and Communist-sympathizer, has been the subject of a good deal of controversy in recent weeks. Earlier this summer Mr. Robeson, who has frequently criticized the U. S. government while expressing his high admiration for the Soviet Union, asserted that American Negroes would not fight for the United States in case of a war between our country and Russia.

This statement brought vigorous denials from many Negro leaders including Jackie Robinson, star second baseman of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson said emphatically that Robeson had no right to speak for 15 million American Negroes and was only speaking for himself.

Later Robeson appeared at a meeting sponsored by an organization which the Department of Justice considers "subversive." The meeting was picketed by a number of groups that resented Mr. Robeson's pro-Communist remarks. Rioting broke out after

the meeting and a number of persons were injured.

Although they disagree with Robeson's views, many people condemned the outbreak of violence. They point out that the incident plays into the Communist's hands and gives them fuel for propaganda.

The incident raises again the question of how our government can best cope with people who attack it and would destroy it. Some people think that a law should be passed to punish such persons. Under our present laws, it is pointed out, this kind of action is possible only in time of war.

Others think that such a law would be unwise. This group, though it disagrees with opinions like those of Paul Robeson, says that a "gag rule" would violate our freedom of speech, and might do great harm to our democracy. It is better, this group thinks, to let all Americans express their views openly, no matter how distasteful they may be.

Water Shortage

President Truman is asking Congress to approve a program under which efforts would be made to help solve the Far West's water shortage. During the last few years, large areas near or along the Pacific Coast have been without sufficient water both for household use and for such purposes as the irrigation of semi-arid farm lands. In 1948, the situation was so bad in many regions that water was rationed and persons were fined for using it to wash their automobiles.

Under the proposed measure, the Department of the Interior would be given enough money to conduct experiments in transforming sea into fresh water at a very low cost. During the war, both the Navy and private industry developed fairly effective methods for distilling fresh water from the ocean, but the cost involved was rather large. Interior officials say that the "production" of fresh water must be relatively inexpensive if it is to be of any value in large sections of the West.

Political Tour

Senator Robert Taft, a Republican leader, is in the midst of a 100-day tour of Ohio, where Democratic leaders and trade union officials are hoping to defeat him in next year's Congressional elections.

The Republican Senator is making



DEPOSITS of iron ore are being developed in Venezuela



THEY DIRECT OUR MILITARY MACHINE. These men make up the Joint Chiefs of Staff—a committee that coordinates the work of the different branches of the military service and directs their over-all programs. Left to right are: General J. Lawton Collins, Army Chief of Staff; Admiral Louis Denfeld, Chief of Naval Operations; General Omar Bradley, Chairman of the group; and General Hoyt Vandenberg, Air Force Chief of Staff.

as many as six speeches a day in his "swing" around his native state, defending his record in the legislature and criticizing President Truman's Fair Deal program. Taft is paying particular attention to the Taft-Hartley Labor Act, of which he is co-author. Taft contends that the measure has never harmed the rank-and-file members of trade unions, though he readily agrees that it has reduced some of the power of what he calls the "labor bosses."

Political observers believe that if Taft wins his fight for re-election, his victory will strengthen the movement in Congress to keep labor unions under strict regulation. On the other hand, they think that if he loses, Congress may be more moderate in passing laws affecting labor organizations.

Atlantic Alliance

Delegates from the North Atlantic Alliance nations are now meeting in Washington to set up a council that will administer the activities of the mutual defense group. The council is to be made up of the foreign ministers of all 12 nations belonging to the alliance. Besides the United States, the member countries are Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Italy and Iceland.

After the council is established, it is expected that a steering committee will be formed to be in active charge of the Atlantic Alliance's military program. The committee will probably consist of the top military leaders of the United States, Great Britain and France.

As contrasted with the 12-member council, which will meet only from time to time, the steering committee will be in almost continuous session. Two of the most important problems it will have to face are the broad strategy to be used in case another war breaks out and the immediate strengthening of the armed forces of all the member powers.

German Problem

All three Western powers in Germany—the United States, Great Britain and France—are showing increasing concern over the reappearance of Nazi ideas among some sections of the German people. In the past few weeks, several newspapers

have printed articles praising what Adolph Hitler did while he was alive.

The three Allied High Commissioners are thinking of controlling—if not forbidding—the publication of such anti-democratic pieces. They are considering the adoption of a law that would require a newspaper to suspend operation for at least three months if it insisted on printing material that was harmful to the democratic cause. Those who wrote the articles would be taken off their jobs for various periods of time.

At a recent meeting in Frankfurt, John J. McCloy, the U. S. High Commissioner for Germany, and General Sir Brian Robertson, the British High Commissioner, talked to a group of German officials about the rebirth of Nazi ideas in their country. The Allied leaders pointed out that the Germans would probably lose most of the sympathy they are now receiving from the people of Great Britain and the United States if they once again came under the influence of the principles that brought about World War II.

Meanwhile, the new government in western Germany is getting fully organized, and the parliament has begun its lawmaking work. The future of

German democracy will depend to a large extent upon the ability of this government to solve the critical problems facing its people.

Loan to Tito

Ever since the United States recently agreed to lend Yugoslavia 20 million dollars to help expand her industrial output, diplomats both here and abroad have been wondering whether the relations between that country and Russia would get any worse than they have been. Russia, and her satellites have been trying for more than a year to disrupt Yugoslavia's economy and force the downfall of Premier Tito. Only recently, the Soviet government brusquely rejected an offer by Yugoslavia to discuss the differences between the two countries.

Under the terms of the U. S. loan agreement Yugoslavia will receive 12 million dollars to increase her production of several important metals, and 8 million dollars for other industrial projects. The money is to be repaid by 1960 at an interest rate of 3½ per cent.

According to many political ob-

servers, the loan can help the United States as much as it will aid Tito. First, they say, it will tend to widen the rift between the Yugoslav leader and international communism. Second, it will enable us to purchase bauxite, lead, mercury, and zinc from Yugoslavia. We are at present short of these products and need them for our "stockpiling" program. (Under this program, we are storing scarce raw materials that would be necessary to our industrial production in the event another war broke out.)

It is reported that Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson was originally opposed to the loan because he felt that Yugoslavia might still side with Russia if we ever became engaged in a war with that country. He changed his mind, however, as Tito's relations with Russia became more and more strained.

Egyptian Industry

Industry is expanding in Egypt. A recent economic report on that country says that many new factories and mills have been built there in the last few years and that the number of industrial workers has jumped almost 100 per cent.

The report adds that as a result of the industrialization, the standard of living of many Egyptians is now higher than ever before. It is, however, still much below that of the United States and western Europe. One eighth of the Egyptian population is employed at present in industry while the other seven eighths work on farms.

In the opinion of most observers, Egypt must establish a far greater number of industries than it now has before it can improve the standard of living of its people to any large extent. Despite the increase in wages that has occurred recently, millions of Egyptians still have very low earnings.

Under an order issued by President Truman, the Department of the Interior is gradually taking over the administration of Guam from the Navy. It will be in full charge of the island by July 1, 1950.

The Navy has been running the government of the Pacific island ever since we acquired it as a result of the Spanish-American War.

—By DAVID BEILES.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Dentist: "You needn't open your mouth any wider. When I pull teeth I stand on the outside."

★ ★ ★

A farmer down our way has a chicken farm with special hen nests that increase production. Each nest has a trap door. When a hen lays an egg, the trap door opens, the egg falls through. The hen turns around and sees there's no egg. "I could have sworn I laid an egg," says the hen, and lays another one.

★ ★ ★

A snappy guy, looking for a job, walked into an office. "I'm a supersalesman," he boasted. "I'm colossal. I'm terrific." "I'll try you out," said the boss. "I've been trying to sell a bill of goods to a hard-boiled fellow across the street. Go see if you can get his order."

A while later the supersalesman came back. "How'd you make out?" asked the boss.

"I got two orders. Get out and stay out!"

★ ★ ★

A conductor collected a woman's ticket. "I'm sorry to inform you, madam, he said, "but the station to which you're going burned to the ground today."

"Oh, that's all right," said the woman.

"They'll have a new one built by the time this train gets there."

★ ★ ★

Teacher: "Oscar, tell me what you know about George Washington. Was he a soldier or sailor?"

Oscar: "I think he was a soldier."

Teacher: "What makes you think so?"

Oscar: "I saw a picture of him when he crossed the Delaware. A sailor knows enough not to stand up in a rowboat."



"Let it ring! Let it ring!"

Use of "Influence" in Government Studied

(Concluded from page 1)

to his receiving favors from the same people that he has helped. Here is what they have to say in this connection:

"It is true, of course, that gifts arrive at the White House almost daily from all parts of the country. There are watermelons, turkeys, and neckties as well as more expensive offerings. Most of these are sent as gestures of good will, with nothing expected or given in return. But when a business firm sends deep freezers to high government officials, and then the White House helps that firm get favors from a government department, the two incidents appear to be connected.

"Regardless of what General Vaughan's intentions may have been, his actions have cast a shadow upon him and upon the President with whom he is so closely associated. The prestige of the federal government and the Presidency will be seriously damaged if he is permitted to keep his position."

General Vaughan's friends say that it is not uncommon for high officials to grant certain minor favors to friends and supporters. The General has served the President well, it is argued, and there is no reason why he should resign.

President Truman has long looked upon General Vaughan as one of his closest friends. The General advises the President on some civilian as well as military matters.

The "Five Per Centers"

The investigation involving General Vaughan began as an inquiry into the operations of so-called "five per centers" in the nation's capital. These are individuals who act as middlemen between private concerns and the government. They have offices in Washington and claim to be well acquainted with many important U. S. officials. They offer their services, for a price, to firms which want to obtain government contracts.

The "five per centers" claim that, by working through their personal acquaintances in the government, they can help clients to make profitable deals. The fee for their services is often five per cent of what the client makes. This accounts for the origin of the term "five per center."

Observers have pointed out that there is nothing necessarily bad about the work of "five per centers." Firms wanting to do business with the government may need Washington representatives who are familiar with the way federal agencies operate. But if government officials grant their business friends special favors, then it becomes a serious matter.

It is generally agreed that incidents brought to light in the "five per center" investigation do not represent really large-scale graft and corruption. The deeds performed seem, at worst, to be more in the nature of petty deals. Of course, the investigations are continuing and more serious cases of graft and corruption may be exposed.

It is not unusual, after a war, for government scandals to occur. The Grant and Harding administrations, both of which came shortly after major conflicts, were particularly notorious in this respect. There appears to be



GENERAL HARRY VAUGHAN, the President's military aide, has been charged with misusing his position to advance his friends' interests

a close connection between postwar conditions and the tendency toward dishonesty and impropriety both in public and private life.

While a war is going on people are obliged to give up many of their personal pleasures and to forget their private interests. Attention is fixed upon the effort to help the nation and to strengthen its military power. Production is speeded. Working hours are long. There are many restrictions on activities of all kinds. National service is the accepted goal.

By the time the war closes, people are physically and mentally weary. They want to relax. Many of them are anxious to get back to personal pleasures and profits. They are tired of public service. There is less interest in politics. The call to public duty is likely to be neglected. There is

President Grant's private secretary was involved in a conspiracy with some whiskey distillers to cheat the government of taxes. Numerous other corrupt deals involving prominent businessmen and government officials came to light during the Grant administration. Local governments, too, were plagued with graft. William Tweed's gang, or "ring," stole millions of dollars from the public funds of New York City.

Another time of great demoralization came just after World War I. While that conflict was being fought, people expected a bright future. They thought they were fighting "a war to end war," and that victory would insure peace, make democracy safe, and usher in a new and better epoch in human history. Later, many people became bitter and disillusioned. They



JOHN MARAGON (right) is one of the men General Vaughan is said to have helped. Maragon is shown above with his lawyer at congressional hearings.

frequently a dip in personal and public standards of conduct.

This happened during the administration of Ulysses S. Grant, shortly after the Civil War. Grant was personally honest, but he knew so little about politics that grafters were able to take advantage of him. Historians have referred to his administration as the "lowest point of national disgrace."

grew cynical and made sport of high ideals. There was a tendency to cast aside high standards of conduct, and for each person to pursue pleasure and profit in his own way.

This trend was reflected in the actions of high officials serving under President Warren G. Harding. Albert Fall, Harding's Secretary of the Interior, was eventually sent to prison

for his part in a dishonest deal involving the use of government oil lands.

Countless other instances of corruption in government could, of course, be cited. Always there are firms and interest groups which seek favors from the government. Selfishness often leads these groups, together with public officials, to step over the line into actual dishonesty.

Both major political parties have, at one time or another, been involved in the corruption of national, state, or local governments. Recent disclosures have not revealed graft and public dishonesty on nearly so large a scale as prevailed just after the Civil War and World War I, but available facts indicate a "let-down" in standards of ethics.

A number of reasons for dishonesty and carelessness in government can be cited, but among the most important ones is lack of public interest. If the people were really determined to have scrupulously honest administrations at national, state, and local levels, and if they paid proper attention to the operation of government agencies, the chance for irregularities and corruption would be greatly reduced.

A recent survey by a congressional committee shows that many states need money for new roads and for repairing those now in use. According to the committee's chairman, Senator Joseph O'Mahoney, of Wyoming, 34 states report that they require 20 billion dollars if they are to take care of all their highway needs.

The survey showed that the states with the greatest need for highway money are Illinois, Ohio, California, and New York, in that order. Others requiring large-scale appropriations are Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Georgia.

In the opinion of the committee, the large "backlog" of highway needs exists because most states were unable to do much building or repairing during the war. Both men and materials were scarce.

The congressional group says that if the states embark on big highway programs in the near future, they will help the country's economy. Road building requires the employment of large numbers of men and the use of great quantities of equipment and materials.

The U. S. government is sponsoring a program under which students from occupied Germany, Japan and Austria come to America for a year's study at colleges and universities. Recently, 75 such students arrived from western Germany.

According to government officials, the purpose in bringing the young people from occupied areas to America is to show them how we live and how we think. In this manner, we hope that they will spread the ideals of democracy after returning home.

Since the start of the program, the Army has been in charge of selecting the students to come here and of transporting them to the colleges and universities they are to attend. Now, however, the State Department is assuming responsibility for the program as it is being administered in the new West German Republic.

Your Vocabulary

The italicized words in the sentences below appeared in recent issues of the Washington, D. C., Evening Star. Match each italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are on page 8, column 4.

1. The two farms were *contiguous* (kōn-tig'you-us). (a) continually dry (b) adjoining (c) unharvested (d) run-down.
2. The package was *cumbersome* (come'ber-sum). (a) burdensome (b) very light (c) dangerous (d) tightly sealed.
3. The woman's illness was *chronic* (kron'ik). (a) fatal (b) minor (c) apparent (d) prolonged.
4. The country had many *potential* (pō-ten'shaw) markets. (a) possible (b) rich (c) industrial (d) agricultural.
5. The woman had a *dowdy* (dow'di) appearance. (a) very neat (b) fashionable (c) shabby (d) attractive.
6. *Amicable* (am'i-kuh-bl) relations between the two countries had long existed. (a) unfriendly (b) peaceable (c) frightening (d) unfortunate.
7. He presented a *graphic* (graf'ik) account of the incident. (a) distorted (b) strange (c) interesting (d) pictorial.
8. The speaker refrained from making *recriminations* (rē-krim-i-nay'shunz) during his hour-long speech. (a) prophecies (b) accusations (c) witty statements (d) excited remarks.
9. It is said that many nations require large sums of money if they are to *replenish* (rē-plēn'ish) their stocks of military supplies. (a) protect properly (b) modernize (c) fill again.
10. The Senate was *adamant* (ād'a-mānt) in its dispute with the House. (a) extremely friendly (b) unyielding (c) unsure of itself.

Council of Europe

Some political observers believe that the movement for a United States of Europe took an important step forward recently at the meeting in Strasbourg, France, of the Council of Europe. They cite the fact that the Council's lower chamber, the Consultative Assembly, adopted a resolution urging the creation of a federated Europe. They also point out that the Assembly agreed to make efforts to remove the trade barriers that now exist between various nations.

Other commentators disagree with this view of the Strasbourg meeting. They argue that the resolutions adopted by the Consultative Assembly are merely recommendations to the governments that are participating in the Council of Europe. They say that very few countries are willing, as yet, to transfer their sovereignty to an over-all European parliament.

Until the Council of Europe convenes again in 1950, the work of the organization will be carried on by various committees. The job of administering the entire program will be in the hands of a group of 28 delegates. The latter will prepare the agenda for the next Council meeting and will try to keep alive the ideal of a real federation of European states.



NORWAY'S LONG COAST LINE has made the Norwegians a seafaring people

Festival in Norway

Holiday Spirit Pervades the Air as Fishermen Sail for Annual Whale Hunt in Antarctic Waters Far to South

THERE is a holiday air in the south of Norway this month. More than 4,000 of Norway's hardy sailors are preparing for their annual voyage to the wintry Antarctic to hunt whales. These sailors will be gone for eight months, so they are spending as much time as possible with their families. For them, the next few days will be something very much like an early Christmas celebration.

Whaling is one of Norway's most important industries, with an annual profit of millions of dollars. The industry was developed by the Norwegians over the past hundred years, and they are world leaders in the production of whale oil—which is used as a lubricant, in making soap, curing leather, and in treating steel to make it durable and flexible.

The Norwegian whaling fleet actually is an industry at sea. There are 10 huge ships, floating factories in which the whales are cut up and their oil extracted. These factories-at-sea carry about 4,000 men. In addition, 8 to 10 catcher boats, each with a crew of 40, go along to do the actual hunting—and the Norwegian whale gunners are noted for their ability.

The ships start for the Antarctic in the last week of September and the early days of October. It is then that the festival atmosphere, along with the tearful parting of the seamen's families, reaches its climax. The whalers put out from the southeastern ports of Larvik and Sanderfjord, followed by hundreds of small boats. From these boats, the families and friends wave a last goodbye and then turn back home.

The whaling fleet, after a stop in Capetown, Africa, for supplies, will push on into the Antarctic ice. From then on, the sailors will be alone in their hunt—until spring brings them back to Norway with their catch.

The whaling industry is a colorful example of how Norway makes much of her living from the sea.

The importance of the sea to Norway

is easily understood by looking at the map. The only land frontier is on the east and northeast—with Sweden, Finland and Russia. The country itself is mostly mountainous or in forests. Only about 3 percent is in farms, which provide a living for about a fourth of the three million population.

However, the twisting in and out of the coast line—beneath the mountains—gives Norway more than 12,000 miles of sea frontier. There are thousands of small harbors. As a result, fishing, whaling and shipping are main sources of livelihood.

Norway's fleet of merchant ships was of great help to the Allies in carrying arms and supplies for the armies during the last war. Although the Germans occupied Norway, most of the fleet got away—to British or other Allied ports. About half of the fleet was lost or destroyed during the war, but it has since been rebuilt and now is the third largest in the world.

Although the merchant fleet has been rebuilt, Norway is finding some difficulty in regaining her prewar prosperity. The ships carry goods all over the world for other nations, just as they did before the war. But operating costs are higher than they were previously. Profits from the ocean freighting no longer are big enough to pay, as they did before the war, about one third of the costs of Norway's imports of food and goods.

Despite this problem, and that of building adequate military defenses against Russia in the north of Norway, the Norwegians are not downhearted. Visitors to Oslo find the capital city gay, the restaurants filled with laughing sailors, farmers and townsfolk by 4:30 in the afternoon. In Norway this is the normal dinner hour.

Many foods are rationed in that country, but there is a sufficient supply of fish, potatoes, and vegetables. If there are no serious setbacks, Norway hopes to be enjoying a more luxurious life by 1952.

—By THOMAS F. HAWKINS.

Science News

Early next year, the present system of ocean weather-stations will be replaced with a new "network" of vessels located at 10 key points in the Atlantic Ocean. The "weather ships," to be supplied by the United States, England, the Netherlands, Canada, France, and Norway, will furnish transatlantic planes and ocean vessels with up-to-the-minute weather information on temperatures, wind directions, and other conditions.

★ ★ ★

American youths may soon be "bouncing around" on a new type of rubber-surfaced playground. At a city school in Akron, Ohio, the students are testing a playground designed to save clothing, shoe-leather, and to prevent injuries. A half-inch thickness of ground rubber has been placed over a foundation of crushed stone and asphalt.

★ ★ ★

Thirty-six British pilots are now in this country learning to fly the huge Stratocruiser. The visiting aviators are being taught by an electronic flight device which can imitate any performance of the liner. The cockpit has all the dials, switches and levers found on the Stratocruiser, and is so constructed that the pilot, co-pilot, engineer, and other crew members may be taught at the same time.

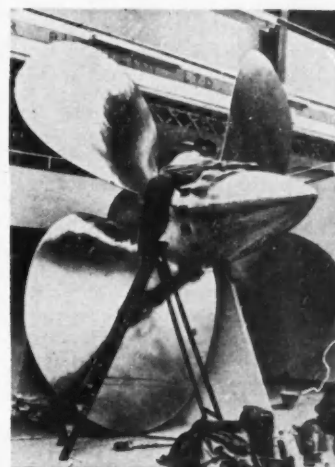
Although the device was built at a cost of more than \$200,000, it is estimated that a crew may be taught at one-tenth of the cost involved in using an actual plane.

★ ★ ★

A new synthetic yarn made from natural gas, oxygen, and nitrogen will soon be on the market. A product of war research, "Orlon" was used by our armed forces in the South Pacific because it would withstand rot and fungi better than any other fiber.

The synthetic fiber is similar to nylon in that it is long-wearing and fast-drying. Orlon will also resist chemicals and acids, will not shrink, and is nearly as strong when it is wet as when it is dry. Thus it is especially useful for materials which will be used outdoors. Although Orlon resembles silk when in thread form, the woven material looks and feels like wool.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



THIS 31-TON propeller, made of manganese and bronze, is similar to those used by large British passenger ships. Here a workman polishes the propeller for a marine exhibit held in London.

Careers for Tomorrow - - In the Travel Field

AMERICANS probably travel more widely and more frequently than do any other people. Some of their trips are taken for business, but most are pleasure jaunts. Whatever the purpose, all this going and coming means vocational opportunities for travel agents.

The term travel agent is a rather broad one used to describe the work of people who plan and manage trips for other persons. In a small organization, one individual may do all the jobs connected with planning trips. That individual is a real travel agent. In a large bureau, though, different jobs are done by different people, and there is no one who can correctly be called a travel agent. Instead, the whole bureau is referred to as a travel agency.

Some of the employees in these agencies are salesmen. They make contacts for their firms and try to persuade people to take trips. These salesmen must have the general qualities that selling requires—pleasing personalities, the ability to talk easily and convincingly to people, and an aggressiveness that is not objectionable. In addition, they must have traveled widely so that they can discuss the merits of different places and of different types of transportation.

"Itinerary" people in travel agencies actually plan the routes that will be followed and secure the necessary reservations. They strive to make a trip fit the customer's pocketbook and his time. They also want to make the trip as interesting and enjoyable as possible. These workers must be painstaking and they must be able to keep

up with many details. A single mistake can spoil an expensive vacation or an important business trip.

Itinerary people must have a wide knowledge of train, bus, plane, and ship routes, and they must know what kind of hotel reservations are available



PLANNING trips for other people can be the basis for a satisfying career

in towns and cities throughout the world.

Travel agencies also employ men and women to conduct tours. These people go along on the trips to see that things run smoothly and that travelers find the kinds of entertainment they want. These workers must be friendly and pleasant, and they must be efficient without appearing to be so.

There are no specific requirements for entrance into the travel field. A college education may provide a good background for the work, especially if one has studied art, geography, litera-

ture, history, and similar subjects. Experience is more important, though, than is formal education.

Usually people enter the work by starting as clerks or stenographers with one of the large agencies. They learn a great deal from their day-to-day contacts, and many attend classes conducted by their employers. Some are sent on tours in a minor capacity, or they are given other assignments that require travel. Thus, they acquire the background of experience they must have if they are to advance.

Individuals in small communities can often build up businesses as travel agents. They plan trips for local customers, buy tickets, and arrange accommodations. These independent travel agents must be salesmen, business executives, and experts in travel.

Beginning salaries in this field are not high, but a person who reaches the top may have a good income. Clerks and stenographers in travel agencies start at about \$150 per month. Salesmen and itinerary people earn from \$200 to \$300 a month, plus commissions in some cases. A few managers of large travel offices earn as much as \$10,000 a year.

This work is pleasant and stimulating. Travel drops off, though, when general business prosperity declines. Consequently, the field may not offer as much security as some people want to find when they choose a career.

"The Story Behind the Question Mark," which can be secured from Ask Mr. Foster Travel Service, Inc., 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y., gives additional information on this field.—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Study Guide

Government Graft

1. Describe the "questionable deals" in which Major General Harry Vaughan is said to have been involved.
2. What does General Vaughan say about the favors or contributions he received from people that he is reported to have helped?
3. What do his critics say about these favors?
4. Describe the work of a "five per center."
5. Tell of some past eras during which the government suffered from graft on a particularly large scale.
6. What seems to be the relationship between war and ethical standards?

Discussion

1. Do you feel it is ever proper for the holder of a high government position to accept favors from persons with whom he has official dealings? Give reasons for your answer.
2. How, in your opinion, can the American people best guard against governmental corruption? Explain your position.

British Crisis

1. What was Great Britain's prosperity based on prior to World War II?
2. How was Britain's economic position changed by the last war?
3. How did industrial production in England early this year compare with prewar output?
4. Why can't Britain be expected to cut her purchases in this country without harming herself?
5. Give one reason why American purchases of British products have been dropping recently.
6. What effect does the American tariff have on the price of British goods sold in this country?
7. How does the British diet compare with that of other countries?

Discussion

1. Some critics of the British government contend that if we are to help Britain, she should give up socialism. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
2. How do you think the sale of British goods might be increased in this country? Explain your position.

Miscellaneous

1. What new source of great wealth is Venezuela now developing?
2. List some issues that will probably be discussed during the coming meeting of the UN General Assembly.
3. What does Jackie Robinson, baseball star, say about Paul Robeson's statements on the attitude of American Negroes?
4. Describe measures being considered by Allied authorities in Germany for curbing expression of Nazi sentiments in the newspapers.
5. What is likely to be the result in Congress if Senator Robert Taft is defeated in next year's elections?
6. Explain why seafaring trades are a main source of livelihood in Norway.
7. How has education been affected by the development of labor-saving machinery, and by the movement of population from country to city?

References

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Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (b) adjoining; 2. (a) burdensome; 3. (d) prolonged; 4. (a) possible; 5. (c) shabby; 6. (b) peaceable; 7. (d) pictorial; 8. (b) accusations; 9. (c) fill again; 10. (b) unyielding.

Pronunciations

Narvik—nahr'vik
Skagerrak—skäg'uh-rack
Stavanger—stah-vahng'ur

Historical Backgrounds - - Youth Opportunities

EDUATION has always been a problem in the United States, as it was in the colonies before the Revolution. During the colonial period, there were a good many people who thought it was desirable for the boys and girls to have an education, but many difficulties were in the way. For one thing, the children did not have time to go to school even though the schools had been provided.

Child labor was a barrier to education throughout the colonies. In 1700, at least nine-tenths of all the people lived on farms, and on these farms there was an enormous amount of work to be done. In many places, forests had to be cut down, stumps had to be pulled out or burned, and slowly the work of cultivating fields had to be accomplished.

While the older members of the family did the heavy work, children did chores and performed many lighter duties. They were so badly needed that the parents would have been unwilling to permit them to go to school.

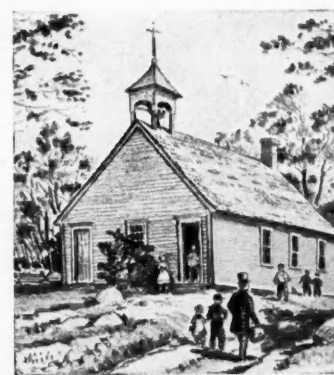
This situation changed as the years went by. Since the early days of our history, there has been an agricultural as well as an industrial revolution. Labor-saving machinery has been introduced to do much of the farm work. This has freed the young people on farms from a great deal of the labor which they performed early in our history.

Not only that, but there has been a vast movement of population from

country to city, so that now three-fifths of our people live in the cities and towns.

This change has not brought universal and unmixed benefits. In the early days, young people had so much work to do that they couldn't go to school. Now, large numbers of them have relatively few duties. They have much spare time, and unless the schools and the home teach them how to spend their time profitably, they may form very bad work habits.

The people of the colonial era, like the Americans of today, were troubled about the cost of education. It was generally agreed, in the colonial days, that there should be no public schools, paid for by taxation.



EARLY American school

James Truslow Adams says in his "Provincial Society, 1690-1763" that "the people of Massachusetts and Connecticut were to a great extent opposed to the expenditure of public money for school purposes, and the old picture of every village with its free school and a population athirst for learning is a pure figment of the imagination."

The last two centuries have seen the development of a public school system, education being paid for by public money. About two-thirds of the cost of public schools is paid from property taxes collected by local governments; one-third is paid for out of money collected in taxes by the state governments. Of all the money spent on public education in the country, less than two per cent is provided by the federal government.

The big issue today is whether or not the federal government should make contributions to the support of education in states which are not able to maintain high educational standards. That is an issue upon which public opinion at this time is sharply divided.

The U. S. government has agreed that two tribes of Indians, living in non-Indian communities in Michigan and Wisconsin, may now have complete charge of their own affairs. There are still nearly 400,000 Indians who are under the supervision of federal authorities. Some of them may become independent in the future.